



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

N✓
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,210	07/14/2003	Matthew Sweetland	112675-127US1	6385
23483	7590	01/11/2005		EXAMINER
				DUVERNE, JEAN F
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/619,210	SWEETLAND, MATTHEW
	Examiner Jean F. Duverne	Art Unit 2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application:
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 40-53 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 37-39 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 4, 6, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 22, 25 27, 17, 2-3, 23-24, 28-30, 5, 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 7-9, 13, 19-21 and 31-36 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-39, drawn to a contact interface, classified in class 439, subclass 775.
- II. Claims 40-53, drawn to the method of establishing electrical connections, classified in class 29.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made.

The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the electrical connections can be made without the deflection of the fibers.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. During a telephone conversation with Ms. Laura A. Paquette on 1/3/2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-39. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in

replying to this Office action. Claims 40-53 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 4, 6, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 22, 25 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Redmond (US005176535A).

Redmond's device having a contact at 60 interface for establishing an electrical connection with an electrical component at 100, said contact interface comprising at least one loading fiber; at least one conductor having at least one contact point, wherein said at least one conductor is coupled to a loading fiber; and wherein an electrical connection can be established between said at least one contact point of said at least one conductor and said electrical component when said device is engaged with said electrical component (100); said device comprises a socket device (see figs. 15-16); said device comprises a circuit board (110); a tension at 62 with opening an face plate to receive the contact (60); the loading fiber forming a grid (see fig. 12), conductive leads, a circuit board (110), insulative material (57 or elastomer material (see fig. 13).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (US005176535A).

Redmond's device discloses the aforementioned limitations, but fails to disclose the diameter range value. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the diameter at a certain range value, since it has been held that the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the diameter at a certain range value in order to establish reliable contact points in Redmond's device.

Claims 2-3, 23-24, 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (US005176535A) in view of Williams et al (US005469072A).

Redmond's device discloses the aforementioned limitations, but fails to disclose the socket type used in the device such as test or burn-in socket with ball or pin array which is well known in the art. Williams' device discloses a

connector with test or burn-in socket with ball or pin array . It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the testing or burn-in capability to the socket such as the one disclosed in Williams' device in order assure the system reliability in Redmond's device.

Claims 5, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (US005176535A) in view of Roth (US006762941B2).

Redmond's device discloses the aforementioned limitations, but fails to disclose the processing unit and card connector. Roth's device discloses the processing unit and card connector (see fig. 19). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary in the art at the time the invention was made to add a processing unit and card connector such as the one disclosed in Roth's device in order add more functionality to Redmond's device.

Conclusion

7. Claims 7-9, 13, 19-21, 31-36 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Prior art fails to disclose the combination features the tension guides features with the tension spring with the rest of the claims limitations.

Claims 37-39 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean F. Duverne whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 2839

(571) 272-2091. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-7:30, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JFD

01/05/2005



Jean Frantz Duverne
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839